

WHAT IS WACCRA?

The Washington State Continuing Care Residents Association (WACCRA) educates, collaborates and advocates on federal and state issues affecting CCRC residents and other seniors. In addition to advocacy by our members, a professional lobbyist supports our efforts in Olympia.

WACCRA's leadership, along with support from other stakeholders, initiated the effort to pass the first Washington law that addresses all CCRC residents, RCW 18.390, which became effective in July, 2017. In addition to seeking legislation, WACCRA has proactively worked with CCRC Executive Directors on practices that will allow residents to participate in decision-making and be kept informed about certain CCRC management and financial issues.

WACCRA volunteers work closely with Senior Lobby, a consortium of organizations focused on senior issues. We also work with LeadingAge, a CCRC management association, and other organizations such as AARP and state agencies that oversee senior's issues. WACCRA is also an affiliate of the National Continuing Care Residents Association (NaCCRA.com).

A strong and robust WACCRA membership is crucial if we are to achieve results. The volunteers, membership dues, and donations fuel these essential activities.



WE EDUCATE:

WACCRA publishes News-Mail, which keeps members informed of current issues WACCRA is investigating. Check out our website, www.waccra.org, which contains useful information and resources. Information for Assisted Living is also available on the website.

WACCRA meets at CCRCs to dialog about current efforts and answer questions. Our Annual Meeting features a recap of the year and excellent speakers.

An extensive resource library is available on the website. Included, for example, are the *Consumer Guide to Continuing Care Retirement Communities in Washington State*, a *Comparison of CCRC Regulations in Four States*, and *The Age-Well Study*.

Your membership fees help offset the printing costs for the *Consumer Guide to Continuing Care Retirement Communities in Washington State* prepared by WACCRA.



Governor Jay Inslee signs RCW 18.390

WE COLLABORATE:

WACCRA maintains a significant outreach program. For example, WACCRA organizes quarterly Presidents' Roundtable meetings with representatives from CCRCs across the Puget Sound area. It's a great opportunity to discuss issues relevant to all CCRCs.

WACCRA is an active member of Senior Lobby. At the monthly meetings attended by over 30 organizations, topics range from hearing loss to dental health; from elder law to the uniform guardian act; and from social security changes to state tax changes. Senior Lobby serves as a clearinghouse for ideas and a coalition builder for legislation focused on issues for seniors. Also important, Senior Lobby member organizations support our CCRC resident-initiated issues.

WACCRA works with the Washington State Long-term Care Ombuds Office and keeps residents aware of the Ombuds' services for residents and their family members. WACCRA works with LeadingAge, the organization of owners and managers of not-for-profit and mission-driven senior care and housing organizations. Our collaboration on issues is important to both management and residents. For example, in 2020-21, jointly we are giving presentations to residents and managers on new practices within Washington CCRCs related to financial information, actuarial information, and decision-making.

WE ADVOCATE: Public policy affecting seniors is a key concern of WACCRA. We sponsor or support legislation and regulation that benefit seniors. At the same time, we oppose new laws and regulations when necessary. In the 2020 legislative session, two of the three bills our members supported were successful: one augmented the budget for the Ombud's Office, and the other restored rights to seniors whose lives are controlled by a guardian. Currently we await the outcome of a new rule proposed by the Medicare/Medicaid Administrator that would raise taxes on CCRC residents in skilled nursing by over \$8000/year. WACCRA organized a letter writing campaign and phonathon to our Congressional delegation to oppose this devastating regulation.

As the result of issues raised by WACCRA members, the Washington Senate Committee on Health and Long Term Care determined to learn more about CCRCs. Their involvement prompted negotiations between LeadingAge and WACCRA to make CCRC management more transparent. The successful negotiations resulted in a signed agreement by each CCRC management that commits to sharing information and to establishing participatory processes and procedures leading to greater trust between residents and management.

Learn more about WACCRA:

- Phone (701) 801-3233
- Web Page www.waccra.org
- Email: info@waccra.org
- US Mail: 1420 Gilman Blvd., Suite 2275 Issaquah, WA. 98027
- Invite a WACCRA representative to talk to interested residents in your community.



WACCRA Meeting Hosted at Timber Ridge

MEMBERSHIP IN WACCRA

WACCRA memberships and donations are essential to securing WACCRA's agenda. Membership cost is low so that all seniors can afford to join. Donations play a large role, too. Without donations, WACCRA could not be self-sustaining.

Anyone can become a member - whether a CCRC resident or not. Membership forms are available on the WACCRA web site, www.waccra.org. Please note that only residents living in a Washington CCRC can be voting members of WACCRA.

An Extended Family Membership is a great option for family concerned about a loved one living in a CCRC. Extended family members receive the WACCRA News-Mail and occasional email notifications keeping them informed about current issues. It is open to a sibling or adult child as part of a resident's WACCRA membership. It is available at a nominal cost, and multiple extended family members are allowed. Such members can reside anywhere as long as they do not reside in a Washington CCRC.

WACCRA is a 501(c)(4) organization.

WACCRA 5/2020

WASHINGTON



CONTINUING CARE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

SECURING RIGHTS
FOR
WASHINGTON CCRC RESIDENTS
THROUGH
COLLABORATION
ADVOCACY
LEGISLATION
IN
OLYMPIA & WASHINGTON, DC

